

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An access network adapted to communicate with a mobile terminal and a core network portion ~~(20)~~ of a public mobile telecommunications network, said access network comprising:

a plurality of local base stations ~~(301)~~ each defining a mini-cell and adapted to communicate with mobile terminals ~~(1)~~ located in ~~a respective said~~ mini-cell over an unlicensed-radio interface ~~(31)~~; and

an access network controller ~~(303)~~ adapted to communicate with said core network portion over a predetermined ~~licensed~~ mobile network interface and connected to said plurality of local base stations, ~~(301)~~;

~~characterised in that~~

wherein all said mini-cells are assigned a common identifier associated with said access network controller, ~~and in that~~

wherein said access network controller ~~(303)~~ is adapted

to receive a handover request containing said common identifier from said core network ~~(20)~~,

to respond to said handover request by assigning a handover reference to said request, and

to setup a communication path between a said mobile station and said core network when a message containing said handover reference is received from said mobile station.

2. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim of 1, characterised in that wherein~~ said plurality of local base stations are adapted to communicate said common identifier to said mobile terminal

3. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim of 1, characterised in that wherein~~ said common identifier identifies a single cell address.

4. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim claim of 1, characterised in that wherein~~ said common identifier identifies a channel frequency utilised by said plurality of local base stations.

5. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim of 1, characterised in that wherein~~ said common identifier identifies a base station address common to all of said plurality of local base stations.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim of 1,~~
~~characterised in that wherein~~ said common identifier is known to said core
network.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The access network ~~as claimed in claim of 1,~~
~~further characterised by comprising a fixed-broadband network (302)~~
connecting said plurality of local base stations ~~(301)~~ with said access network
controller ~~(303)~~.

Claims 8-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method for handing over a communication
with a mobile station from a cell of a public ~~licensed~~-mobile network to a mini-
cell of an unlicensed-radio access network connected to said public mobile
network, said public ~~licensed~~-mobile network comprising an access portion
including a base station ~~(10)~~ defining said cell and a core network portion
including a switching control part ~~(202)~~ connected to said ~~base station~~ access
portion, said unlicensed-radio access network ~~(30)~~ comprising a plurality of
local base stations ~~(301)~~ each defining a mini-cell and adapted to communicate
with a ~~said~~ mobile station ~~(1)~~ via an unlicensed-radio interface and an access
network controller ~~(303)~~ ~~adapted to communicate with~~ connected to said
plurality of local base stations and adapted to communicate with ~~the said~~ core

network portion of said public mobile network, said method including
comprising:

allocating a common identifier to all ~~local base stations connected to~~
mini-cells associated with said access network controller;

~~each local base station communicating at least a part of said common~~
~~identifier to a mobile station (1) located within the associated mini-cell via said~~
~~unlicensed radio interface,~~

said access network controller (303) responding to a handover request
message containing said common identifier received from ~~the said~~ core network
portion by generating a handover reference and transmitting said handover
reference ~~as in~~ a handover acknowledgment message to said core network
portion; ~~and (10),~~

said access network controller (303) receiving said handover reference
from said mobile station via said local base station (301) and setting up a
communication path ~~over said fixed broadband network with said local base~~
~~station between said mobile station and said core network~~ in response to said
received handover reference.

16. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method as claimed in claim of 15, further
characterised by the steps of comprising:

said base station (10) access portion of said public licensed mobile
network receiving said common identifier from said mobile station, identifying

said access network controller (303)-using said common identifier and generating a said handover request message addressed to said access network controller (303)-via said switching control part-(202).

17. (Currently amended) ~~A-~~The method as ~~claimed in claim of 15,~~ further characterised by the steps of comprising:

said mobile station₁ (1)-upon receipt of said common identifier₁ transmitting a report to said ~~base station (10)-~~access portion adapted to trigger handover irrespective of other frequencies received by said mobile station.

18. (New) An access network controller for use in an access network adapted to communicate with a mobile terminal and a core network portion of a public licensed mobile network, said access network controller being adapted to communicate with said core network portion over a predetermined mobile network interface and being connected to a plurality of access points, each defining a mini-cell, wherein said access network controller is adapted to communicate with said mobile terminal located in a respective mini-cell of an access point via an unlicensed-radio interface between said mobile terminal and said access point, wherein said access network controller is adapted to receive a handover request containing a common identifier from said core network, said common identifier being associated with said access

network controller and assigned to all mini-cells connected with said access network controller,

to respond to said handover request by assigning a handover reference to said handover request, and

to set up a communication path between a mobile station and said core network when a message containing said handover reference is received from said mobile station.

19. (New) The access network controller of 18, wherein said common identifier identifies a single cell address.

20. (New) The access network controller of 18, wherein said access network controller is connected to said plurality of access points via a broadband network.

21. (New) In an access network controller forming part of an unlicensed radio access network, said access network controller being connected to a plurality of access points each defining a mini-cell and being adapted to communicate with mobile stations located in said mini-cells via said access points and to communicate with a core network portion of a public licensed mobile network, a method of handling handover of a communication with a

mobile station from a cell of said public licensed mobile network to a mini-cell of said unlicensed-radio access network, said method comprising:

receiving a handover request message from said core network portion, said handover request message containing a common identifier for identifying all mini-cells associated with said access network controller,

responding to said handover request message by generating a handover reference and transmitting said handover reference in a handover acknowledgment message to said core network portion,

receiving said handover reference from said mobile station via said local base station and

setting up a communication path between said mobile station and said core network in response to said received handover reference.